

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 14-19, 41, 44-48, 55-67, 71, and 71, objected to claims 31 and 69, and rejected claims 49-54, 68, and 70. However, the Examiner also indicated that claims 31 and 69 recite allowable subject matter. By this paper, Applicants hereby cancel claims 49-54 and 69 and amend claims 31 and 68 to expedite allowance of the present application. These amendments and new claims do not add any new matter. For example, the Applicants hereby incorporate allowable dependent claim 69 into independent claim 68. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 31 for not including a period. As set forth above, the Applicants hereby amend claim 31 to add a period, thereby placing claim 31 in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this claim objection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 49 and 51-54 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, as noted above, the Applicants hereby cancel claims 49-54 to expedite allowance of the present application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 49-52 and 54 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Miller (U.S. Patent No. 2,709,446, hereinafter "Miller"). The Examiner also rejected claims 68 and 70 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Clinton (U.S. Patent No. 2,666,479; hereinafter "Clinton"). The Applicants respectfully

traverse these rejections. However, as noted above, the Applicants hereby cancel claims 49-54 and incorporate allowable claim 69 into independent claim 68. As a result, the foregoing rejections are now moot and should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of Miller in view of Clinton. However, as noted above, the Applicants hereby cancel claim 53. As a result, the foregoing rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims should be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve any other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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